

**School of Science Curriculum Committee**  
**Minutes of 21 October 2014 Meeting**  
Dean of Science Conference Room (309 Hayden Hall)

**Members Present:**

Marvin Bishop	Michael Judge
Bruce Liby	Darcy Lis-Beglane
Janet McShane	John Regan
Constantine Theodosiou (Chair)	

The meeting was called to order at 3:20PM.

Dr. Regan presented a proposal for the expansion of contact hours for General Chemistry.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry currently teaches general chemistry to over 700 students a year with a wide variety of majors including chemistry, biochemistry, biology, engineers, education, and arts. Among the teaching faculty, there is near universal agreement that three hours of lecture per week is not adequate to cover all the necessary topics in sufficient detail to give our students a high quality education. This same situation was recognized many years ago for the organic chemistry curriculum (CHEM 319 and CHEM 320). A satisfactory solution was instituted by the addition of a one hour recitation or problem session each week without changing the credits. As such, the students receive four contact hours per week with the expected outcome that lectures and problems are covered in sufficient depth.

We propose that the general chemistry courses CHEM 101 and CHEM 102 add an additional one hour of recitation per week to the curriculum, without changing the course credit. This hour will only be used for in-class problem solving, not adding additional material to the curriculum. This strategy is used in the general chemistry classes of many of our neighboring institutions, such as Fordham, Hunter College, St. John's University and Lehman College. The ability to provide our students with valuable contact time cannot be overstressed in demanding subjects such as general chemistry, where problem solving time is crucial to the student's success in the classroom. Because of the department's ongoing course assessments for general chemistry, we will be able to quantify the impact that additional contact hours will have on our student's performance.

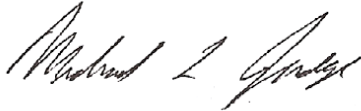
For the 2013-2014 academic year the Department offered 31 sections of CHEM 101 and CHEM 102. At about \$1000 per credit for adjunct salary or overload the cost to the College would be approximately \$31,000 per year. Our faculty strongly believes that adopting four contact hours per week with our students will substantially improve the understanding and appreciation of the course material and will have benefits in many upper level science classes. Importantly, we anticipate an increase in retention rates for our students.

The Curriculum Committee discussed how this might serve as a template within the School of Science to increase faculty-student interactions with freshman and positively affect student retention.

The modified proposal was accepted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Judge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and "J".

Michael Judge  
Note-taker

Minutes approved November 4, 2014